

GLAST SWG Telecon Minutes – February 26, 2004

Attended:

David Band
Elliott Bloom
Lynn Cominsky
Brenda Dingus
Neil Gehrels
Isabelle Grenier
Neil Johnson
Don Kniffen
Giselher Lichti
Chip Meegan
Peter Michelson
Jay Norris

Jonathan Ormes
Martin Pohl
Steve Ritz
David Thompson
Steve Thorsett
Kathy Turner

Guests:
Julie McEnery
Norman Rioux

Steve welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda.
Minutes from the December telecon were approved.
Steve also announced that Dan Blackwood is now the Program Executive replacing Steve Horowitz.

Kathy Turner – D.O.E.

- Continue to follow the construction project.
- Budget for project phase is secure.
- Preparing for upcoming IFC meeting.

Don Kniffen – NASA HQ

- Budget – 2 missions from the astronomy & physics division received increases. GLAST was one to receive an increase.
- GP-B is scheduled for launch 4/17/04.
- LISA and ConX delayed.
- Joint Oversight Group (JOG) meeting tomorrow.
- HQ is working on the Italian agreement. Discussing changes requested by ASI. Don will talk with Peter and Guido later today.

Peter Michelson – LAT

- Team completed the 1st data challenge – simulated data and used software tools developed for GLAST. It was successful. Planning 2 additional challenges – the 2nd data challenge is scheduled for 2005 and will include the GBM, the 3rd is scheduled for 2006.

At launch software should be ready with “no bugs.” Results of the 1st data challenge is on the website.

-Undergoing 3 reviews/meeting in the next month:

- a. JOG meeting is tomorrow (Friday) – project status report of operation stage.
- b. Next week the LAT International funding meeting is scheduled.
- c. End of March – Joint NASA-DOE status review.

-Flight hardware – 1st delivery, July '04.

-Mission Level – Yellow – 3 tech issues:

1. Tracker interface-mechanical.
2. ACD photo tube – Dave stated they have a solution and now are implementing it.
3. Flight software schedule – is being reviewed today.

Chip Meegan and Giselher Lichti - GBM

Chip:

-Struggling with thermal system but the problem is administrative not mechanical.

-Engineering unit for data processing arrives next week.

-Problem arising from the parts for the components built in Germany:

Giselher:

-Has spent all money allotted – needs an addition \$180,000 for certain parts. DLR has problems granting more money for the GBM and has put pressure on MPE to find a solution for the financial problem within the present budget. MPE is also supporting. Procurement time for these parts is 4/5 months.

-Has sent new thermal design to Chip this morning.

-EQM's may slip in schedule.

Chip:

-Has found some available parts at NASA and is still looking for more.

-Is coming to GSFC next Wednesday for the Quarterly. Giselher will make himself available for additional information via telecon.

-Testing on the power box – delivered to Huntsville without thermal vacuum testing. Will be done at Huntsville as part of the GBM instrument testing.

-Burst Working group has been in e-mail communication. Have been discussing the publication of interesting individual bursts. The lead author of a publication will be random within the GBM team. Will go into more detail at the next face-to-face. Peter will send a copy of the LAT publication policy to Chip and Jay.

News from Europe and Japan:

France - Isabelle:

-CEA/NASA agreement signed in January. It's the first LOA signed for GLAST.

-Calorimeter work is being done.

-Has been busy with the work on the data challenge.

Germany - Giselher:

-Already reported.

Italy - Guido:

-There will be a general meeting, March 11-12, on software.

-Will talk with Don and Peter about the ASI/NASA agreement.

Japan:

-Steve reported that the silicon has been ordered, fabricated, and most all has been shipped to Italy.

Norman Rioux - Mission Report:

-GLAST Confirmation is complete.

-Spacecraft CDR is scheduled for May.

-Ground System CDR to be held this summer.

-GBM CDR will be held in Huntsville this summer.

-Burst alert – 7 second response time – still feasible.

IDS Reports:**Chuck Dermer:**

1. Wrote papers with Armen Atoyan and Stuart Wick explaining gamma-ray emissions from GRBs and their relation of GLAST observations to the problem of cosmic ray origin.

2. Wrote another paper clarifying the relation between internal photon energy density and observed spectral energy flux (astro-ph/0402438) which will lead to a detailed paper on providing quantitative and rigorous lower limits to the Doppler factors of relativistic outflows from the requirement of gamma-gamma transparency.

3. Still recruiting for a postdoc to do GLAST theory work and software development for GLAST. (Ads are in the AAS job register and Physics Today.) Please bring this to the attention of any suitable candidate

Martin Pohl:

-Not much since December.

-Has a postdoc announcement out – there is some visa problems.

Brenda Dingus:

-Grad students, M. Gonzales, is finishing up her thesis – result will be 1 or 2 papers being published.

-Another paper to be published will be about spark chamber events in other bursts.

-Working on Milargo.

-Working on a large field of view TeV detector for higher energies.

-Has made an offer to a postdoc.

-EGRET data to measure albedo – has been talking to people at GSFC.

Steve Thorsett:

-Identification of pulsars beneficial to GLAST – submitted proposal to Arcibo.

-“NuSTAR” small explorer study.

-Yesterday attended meeting on multiwavelengths – will be writing a white paper.

Transient Group – Isabelle:

-Definition of transient group and source list has been updated.

-Has included blazars and EGRET sources, added fluxes and latitudes to the list.

-Post max flux on website.

-For next telecon, Steve proposed – 1) think about what is it we would do with data that is being provided? 2) If posted on the website, how do we recommend it is used in publications? 3) Take the list from Isabelle and think about it. 4) The User’s Committee should be involved. 5) How much work is involved in releasing this data? – LAT to make a preliminary plan.

David Band – Science Support Center:

-The User’s Committee Minutes are on the website. Will send the web address to the SWG. The User’s Committee is interested in reviewing the tools.

-Peer review on the SSC in November produced no real serious issues. There will be another review, possibly in April.

-Progress on tools continuing.

Lynn Cominsky - EPO

-Educator Ambassadors are on board.

-More cubes, flashlights and pads have been ordered. Corrections made on cube.

-\$1M funding grant for the TV show has been received, includes planetarium show. Will meet with Tom Lucas in the near future.

-Had a telecon review with WestEd. Super Nova will be the next unit.

-Updating brochure – still need tracker plots from Peter.

-The website has new graphics.

-Gave a presentation to Spectrum Astro several weeks ago. Steve also gave a presentation to Spectrum Astro.

-Press plan draft has been sent to NASA/DOE.

-Creating more fun things for kids – pop-up book is in the works.

-Working on the GLAST trading card game which is similar to the Magic Game.

-Has done several teacher conference presentations.

Neil Gehrels – Public Outreach:

-Planning to send the combined booths to the AAS, APS, and HEAD meetings. Lynn suggested also taking the booth to the AAAS meeting.

- Working on a fact sheet for the PAO office.
- Have a new web design for all NASA websites.
- Julie McEnery is updating the GLAST science brochure.

Steve Ritz – GLAST Symposium, next face-to-face, future telecons:

Symposium: Would like to start planning for a GLAST Symposium following the GRO model. Checking the calendar and picking a good date 12-18 months from now. Would probably have plenary and parallel sessions. Looking for SWG people to work on the Organizing Committee. Initial phase – where and when. The Organizing Committee would report to the SWG. Would like to make this a major conference for the community. If anyone is interested in the planning, please e-mail Steve. Peter suggested reaching out to other missions: Chandra, INTEGRAL, Swift, GPB, etc. Neil said he is planning a Swift Symposium about 1 year after launch.

Face-to-face: Will take place the last week of September at SLAC/Stanford. The LAT is scheduled for MTW, September 27-29 at SLAC; SWG Workshop, Thursday or possibly Wednesday at either SLAC or Stanford; and the SWG Meeting, Friday, October 1 (or Thursday) at Stanford. The workshop topic will be “GLAST and Very High Energy and ground-based experiments.” Brenda will talk with Milagro.

Future Telecon Dates:

- April 22
- June 24
- September will be the face-to-face
- December 2

ACTION Items:

1. Steve is updating the Action Item page on the website.
2. All other Action Items have been completed, except the tractor photo from Peter for Lynn.

ACTION Item List from this meeting:

1. User’s Committee Minutes from David Band to the SWG. -- CLOSED
2. Peter – tracker photo for Lynn. -- CLOSED

Adjourn.